(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, in what merger government ensure proper implementation of the instructions in this regard?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) With effect from 1-4-1993, a new Sleeper Class has been introduced, fare for which has been fixed at 25 per cent higher than the second class fare.

(b) A Sleeper Class passenger enjoys one berth at night and a reserved seat during day time. Only confirmed and RAC passegers are authorised to travel by these coaches, thereby eliminating overcrowding. Since the number of passengers is limited, the facility of toilet, water and other amenities are shared by limited number of passengers. The Sleeper Class passengers are given free allowance of 40 kgs. in luggage as against 35 kgs. for second class passengers.

(c) to (e) With a view to curb the evil of ticketless|irregular travel, regular surprise checks are conducted both on short distance and long distance trains by mobilising large number of ticket checking staff and officers in association with Special Railway Magistrates, Government Railway Police and Railway Protection Force. Instructions have been issued to the Railways to pay special attention to the genuine passengers travelling in Sleepr Class with reservation.

Nation-wide strike by Railway employees

382. SHRI KAILASH NARAIN SARANG: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he Railway employees are contemplating to go on a nation-wide strike in September, 1993;

(b) if so, the details of their demands; and

(c) what are the steps taken to settle the major demands of the Railway employees?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) Earlier Railway employees were contemplating to go on strike in September, 1993. However(according to latest information available, all Central Government employees, including Railwaymen are proposing to go on indefinite General Strike in case their following demands are not settled immediately:

(i) Merger of portion of Dearness Allowance with Basic Pay.

(ii) Setting up a permanent wage review committee for Central Government employees.

(iii) 20 per cent increase of wages as interim relief.

(iv) Non-implementation of Awards:

(a) Grant of Rs. 30/- per month to non-gazetted employees as transport subsidy for travel between the place of residence and the place of work.

(b) Encashment of Earned Leave while in service.

(iv) Removal of ceiling limit for Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) so as to consider all non-gazetted staff for payment of PLB irrespective of their pay.

These demands concern all Central Government employees including Railwaymen and no isolated view can be taken by the Ministry of Railways.

Train Accidents

383. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of major rail accidents that occurred during the last six months; the number of persons killed| injured and the loss of property suffered; and

(b) the causes of such accidents and the steps taken to check their recurrence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) During the period January-June 1993, 247 consequential